

Remarks

Claims 18-23 are pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 18-23 and added new claims 24-30. Support for the new claims and amendments presented herein can be found throughout the subject specification, including for example, at page 7, lines 19-28, and in the claims as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments will require no further search or examination on the part of the Examiner and do not constitute new matter. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 18-30 are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephonic conference conducted on March 4, 2003 with Applicants' undersigned representative regarding the proposed amendments and new claims in the subject application. In accordance with the telephonic conference, Applicants are submitting the amendments and new claims presented herein for the Examiner's consideration. It is Applicant's understanding that the amendments presented herein will place the application in condition for allowance.

It should be understood that these amendments have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an indication of Applicants' agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

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Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims



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Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims

Claim 18 (amended):

18. A gene delivery vector comprising a ferrite [particles] particle having a polymeric coating to which a [target] targeting polypeptide molecule[, a nucleic acid] and a nucleic acid binding protein are covalently bound, wherein a nucleic acid of interest is bound to said nucleic acid binding protein.

Claim 19 (amended):

19. [A] The gene delivery vector according to claim 18 wherein said [target] targeting polypeptide molecule is selected from the group consisting of wheat germ agglutinin, transferrin and nerve growth factor.

Claim 20 (amended):

20. [A] The gene delivery vector according to claim 18 wherein said [target] targeting polypeptide molecule is an antibody or antibody fragment.

Claim 21 (amended):

21. [A] The gene delivery vector according to claim 18 wherein said polymeric coating is a dextran coating.

Claim 22 (amended):

22. [A] The gene delivery vector according to claim 18 wherein said ferrite particles are produced by the preparation of a mixture of ferrous and ferric chloride.

Claim 23 (amended):

23. An injectable composition comprising [a] the gene delivery vector according to claim 18 and a physiologically acceptable diluent.